MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY

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Fact Sheet

Forward Deployable Radars

The Ballistic Missile Defense System will deploy forward based radars (both land and sea-based) to enhance the system's capability by adding robustness against a wide range of threats and providing support for increased protection. The radars will be capable of detecting ballistic missiles early in their flight and will provide precise tracking information for use by the missile defense system. This approach provides overlapping sensor coverage, the potential to extend the Ballistic Missile Defense System battle space, and the ability to complicate an enemy's ability to penetrate the defense system.

Overview

- High-resolution, X-band class, phased array radar
- Radars will acquire, track, discriminate, classify, identify, and estimate the trajectory parameters of threat missiles and missile components, and pass this information to other Ballistic Missile Defense System tracking, discrimination, and fire control radars downstream.
- Transportable by air, ship and rail
- Also deployed with command and control interface, a radar support trailer, two to three generators, and two supply containers

Details

- Forward based radars, coupled with layered sensors, give the Ballistic Missile Defense System a continuous tracking and discrimination capability with more shot opportunities to engage the target, resulting in a greater probability for a successful hit.
- The radars will pass target data to the command and control system for use by the midcourse and terminal sensors.
- Performs autonomously or as cued by other sensors

Development

- Three forward deployed radars may be developed and deployed to protect the United States from Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles and medium range threats.
- The forward deployed radars will deliver an initial search and track capability at the beginning of fiscal year 2006.
- Discrimination enhancements will be added in late 2006